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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,546	09/08/2003	Clifford Neil Didcock	502080-A-11-US (Didcock)	9884
7590	01/11/2006		EXAMINER CHOW, MING	
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP 90 Forest Avenue Locust Valley, NY 11560			ART UNIT 2645	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/657,546	DIDCOCK ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Ming Chow	2645	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2-10-04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 7, 8 recite "the centralized messaging system". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
2. Claim 8 recites "the user" (line 3). There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
3. Claim 15 recites "the step of caching". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
4. Claim 16 recites "the step of providing". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
5. Claim 17 recites "the step of accessing". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term “which system” is not clearly defined. It is unclear what is referred by the “which system”. Does it refer to the “a messaging system” (line 1) or “distributed front-end messaging system” (line 1)?

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase “the front-end messaging system” (line 2) is not clearly defined. It is unclear the cited phrase refers to “one distributed front-end messaging system” or “centralized front-end messaging system”.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hogan et al (US: 5619554).

For claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 14, 15, 16, Hogan et al teach on Fig. 13 and Fig. 4, a messaging system for multiple users.

Hogan et al teach on item 1302 Fig. 13, a plurality of voice message servers (claimed “at least one distributed front-end messaging system”).

Hogan et al teach on item 1304 Fig. 13, column 15 line 26-27, database (claimed “centralized data store”) which associates with the voice message server. The database stores voice messages (claimed “storing data associated with users”).

Hogan et al teach on column 3 line 43-46, storing voice packets retrieved from the database in a buffer (claimed “at least one cache means”) for playback. The played voice message is in dependence on the data stored in the buffer.

Regarding claim 3, Hogan et al teach on item 904 Fig. 13, front-end distributor (claimed “centralized front-end messaging system”) associates with database.

Regarding claim 5, Hogan et al teach on column 15 line 42-43, front-end distributor (claimed “centralized front-end messaging system”) provides voice message services (claimed “at least one messaging function”).

Regarding claim 6, Hogan et al teach on column 15 line 55-60, the front-end distributor (claimed “centralized front-end messaging system”) distributes voice messages to voice message server (claimed “distributed front-end messaging system”). The front-end distributor must identify the voice message server for distribution of the voice messages.

Regarding claim 7, Hogan et al teach on column 26 line 34-41, operator data includes ANI (claimed “a calling number”) and called party number.

Regarding claim 9, the database (item 1304 Fig. 13) as taught by Hogan et al must have configuration data (database configuration).

Regarding claim 10, Hogan et al teach on item 334 Fig. 13, VRU (claimed “call answering”).

Regarding claims 11, 17, Hogan et al teach on column 3 line 19, call processing system (reads on claimed “subscriber access function”).

Regarding claim 12, Hogan et al teach on item 1302 Fig. 13, a plurality of independent voice message servers (reads on claimed “a respective voice mail domain”).

Regarding claim 13, Hogan et al teach on item 102 Fig. 1, a switch.

***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not replied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US: 2005/0111634.

10. Any inquiry concerning this application and office action should be directed to the examiner Ming Chow whose telephone number is (571) 272-7535. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached on (571) 272-7547. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

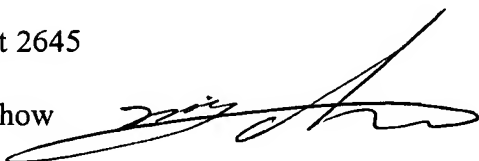
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

**Or faxed to Central FAX Number 571-273-8300.**

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2645

Ming Chow

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ming Chow', is written over the printed name.